

## CHAPTER 55.

LEGALIZING THE ERECTION OF A BRIDGE IN WASHINGTON  
COUNTY.AN ACT to Legalize Certain Acts of the Board of Supervisors MARCH 31.  
of Washington County, Iowa.

WHEREAS, The board of supervisors of Washington Preamble.  
county, Iowa, during the year 1867, contracted for,  
and caused to be constructed, an iron bridge over  
Skunk river, near Brighton, in said county, on the  
road leading from Washington to Fairfield; and,

WHEREAS, The cost of said bridge, according to said  
contract, exceeded the sum of five thousand dollars; and,

WHEREAS, The proposition therefor was not by said  
board of supervisors submitted to the legal voters of  
said county, as required by law: therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly*  
*of the State of Iowa,* That all the acts of the board of <sup>Acts of board</sup>  
supervisors of Washington county, Iowa, in contract- <sup>supervisors</sup>  
ing for, and causing to be constructed, said bridge, as <sup>Washington</sup>  
recited in the preamble thereto, be and the same are <sup>co. in build'g</sup>  
hereby legalized and confirmed, and shall have all the <sup>bridge cost'g</sup>  
binding force and effect that such acts and contract <sup>over \$5,000</sup>  
would have had if said board of supervisors had pro- <sup>legalized.</sup>  
ceeded according to the provisions of subdivision 23  
of section 312, Revision of 1860, as amended by chap- <sup>Rev. § 312,</sup>  
ter 87 of the laws of the Eleventh General Assembly. <sup>1866, ch. 87.</sup>

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force <sup>Taking effect.</sup>  
from and after its publication in The Record and in  
The Washington County Press, newspapers published  
at Washington, Iowa, without expense to the State. <sup>No cost to</sup>  
Approved March 31, 1868. <sup>State.</sup>

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in *The Record*  
April 4, 1868, and in *The Washington County Press* April 8, 1868.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State.*

## CHAPTER 56.

## ALLOWING ALIENS TO POSSESS AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY.

AN ACT Abolishing Distinctions between Foreigners and Citizens MARCH 31.  
as to the Acquisition, Enjoyment, and Transfer of property.

SECTION. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly*

Aliens may acquire, hold, and dispose of property.

Descent.

Alien heirs.

Distinctions between citizens & aliens abolished.

Dower.

Previous conveyances not to be questioned.

Retroactive. Proviso.

Relinquishments by State not affected.

*of the State of Iowa*, That all aliens, whether they reside in the United States or in any foreign country, may in this State acquire, hold, and enjoy property, personal or real, or any interest therein, by purchase, gift, devise, or descent, and may convey, mortgage, or devise the same in a like manner, and with the same effect, as if such aliens were native-born citizens of the United States. And all property, real or personal, situated in this State and belonging to a foreigner, shall, if not disposed of by will, after the death of the owner descend to the heirs of such foreigner, whether the same reside in the United States or in any foreign country. Such heirs shall be the same as the heirs-at-law of native-born citizens.

SEC. 2. All the distinctions heretofore made by laws between citizens and resident and non-resident foreigners, in reference to the acquisition, possession, enjoyment, and transfer of property, real and personal, by conveyance, gift, devise, descent, or otherwise, are hereby abolished. A non-resident alien shall be entitled to dower in lands situated in this State, the same as resident citizens except as against a purchaser from the decedent, or a purchaser under execution against the decedent, but as against such purchaser an alien not residing in the State of Iowa shall not be entitled to dower.

SEC. 3. The title to any land heretofore conveyed by purchase or gift, or transferred by devise or descent, shall not be questioned, nor in any manner affected by reason of the alienage of any person, from or through whom such title may have been derived.

SEC. 4. This law shall be retroactive; *provided*, however, that thereby no vested rights of private persons shall be violated; neither shall the title of any person or persons to whom the General Assembly has made any relinquishment of an escheat be hereby impaired or affected. The State relinquishes generally her claims to such escheated property as is transferred to foreigners by purchase, gift, devise, or descent, or otherwise.

SEC. 5. All laws conflicting with these provisions are hereby abolished.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the State Register and Iowa Homestead, newspapers published in the city of Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved March 31, 1868.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Daily State Register* April 3, 1868, and in *The Iowa Homestead* April 9, 1868.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State*.

## CHAPTER 57.

### DES MOINES VALLEY RAILROAD AND LANDS.

AN ACT Prescribing the Terms and Conditions on which the State will relinquish and convey to the Des Moines Valley Railroad Company certain Rights and Privileges in respect to the Resumption of Lands heretofore granted to said Company. MARCH 31.

WHEREAS, By act of Congress approved August Preamble. 8, 1846, there was granted to the then Territory of Iowa certain lands to aid in the improvement of the Des Moines river, in said Territory; which grant the State of Iowa, by joint resolution of the General Assembly, approved January 9, 1847, accepted for the 1847, J. R. 2. purposes therein specified; and,

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of this State, by an act approved March 22, 1858, granted such portion 1858, ch. 99. of said lands as had not been previously disposed of, to the Keokuk, Fort Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad Company, to aid in the construction of a railroad from the city of Keokuk up and along the valley of the Des Moines river by the way of the city of Des Moines to the northern line of the State, in the direction of the southern bend of the Minnesota or St. Peter's river, and providing that said grant should become operative when the consent of Congress to the diversion of said lands should be obtained, or the title thereto vested in the State; and also imposing upon said company, in case of its acceptance of said grant, certain conditions and restrictions, among which it was provided that said company would complete seventy-five miles of said road within three years, and thirty-three miles each year thereafter for five years, and the whole line on or before the first day of December, 1868; and,

WHEREAS, Such consent of Congress to the diversion was given by an act approved July 12, 1862, and said company afterward accepted said grant; and,